

We claim:

1. A one-piece connecting element for a radial piston pump for connecting a piston to a restoring element, wherein the piston is displaceably mounted in a cylinder and can be restored from an upper dead-center position by means of the restoring element, and the connecting element is connected to the piston with a positive fit, the positive fit being effected by means of a snap-in connection between the connecting element and at least one recess formed in the piston.
2. The connecting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connecting element is an essentially annular component, an inner region of the connecting element providing a positive-fit connection to the piston, and an outer region of the connecting element providing a connection to the return element.
3. The connecting element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the inner region is arranged in the axial direction of the connecting element, and the outer region is arranged on different planes.
4. The connecting element as claimed in claim 2, wherein the inner region is formed by at least one mating surface bent from a main plane of the one-piece connecting element.
5. The connecting element as claimed in claim 3, wherein the inner region is formed by at least one mating surface bent from a main plane of the one-piece connecting element.

6. The connecting element as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inner region is formed by four mating surfaces that engage in the recess formed in the piston.

7. The connecting element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the inner region is formed by four mating surfaces that engage in the recess formed in the piston.

8. The connecting element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the mating surfaces are arranged symmetrically around the inner circumference of the connecting element.

9. The connecting element as claimed in claim 7, wherein the mating surfaces are arranged symmetrically around the inner circumference of the connecting element.

10. The connecting element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess formed in the piston is an annular groove.

11. A radial piston pump comprising:
- a radial piston having at least one recess displaceably mounted in a cylinder;
  - a restoring element for restoring said piston from an upper dead-center position;
  - a one-piece connecting element for connecting said piston to said restoring element with a positive fit comprising a snap-in connection for connecting the connecting element and the at least one recess formed in the piston.
12. The connecting element as claimed in claim 11, wherein the connecting element is an essentially annular component, an inner region of the connecting element providing a positive-fit connection to the piston, and an outer region of the connecting element providing a connection to the return element.
13. The connecting element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the inner region is arranged in the axial direction of the connecting element, and the outer region is arranged on different planes.
14. The connecting element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the inner region is formed by at least one mating surface bent from a main plane of the one-piece connecting element.
15. The connecting element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the inner region is formed by at least one mating surface bent from a main plane of the one-piece connecting element.

16. The connecting element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the inner region is formed by four mating surfaces that engage in the recess formed in the piston.

17. The connecting element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inner region is formed by four mating surfaces that engage in the recess formed in the piston.

18. The connecting element as claimed in claim 16, wherein the mating surfaces are arranged symmetrically around the inner circumference of the connecting element.

19. The connecting element as claimed in claim 17, wherein the mating surfaces are arranged symmetrically around the inner circumference of the connecting element.

20. The connecting element as claimed in claim 11, wherein the recess formed in the piston is an annular groove.